C!N
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Superman

"Sacrifice" Flies in July

Superman may be a hero with powers far beyond those of ordinary men, but that doesn't mean that he's immune to a personal crisis or two. And with an ***Infinite Crisis*** on the way, Superman's life is about to take a dramatic and unexpected turn... and that turn may have a major impact on one of his most important friendships.

"Sacrifice," a four-part weekly series running through the three ***Superman*** titles and ***Wonder Woman*** in July, begins when "a group of Superman's nastiest foes, including Brainiac and Darkseid, suddenly attack the Man of Steel," ***Superman*** writer *Mark Verheiden* told ***CSN***. "The combat all leads to a very surprising revelation in *Greg Rucka's* ***Adventures of Superman*** and then ***Wonder Woman***, all of which dovetails into the ongoing ***OMAC Project*** storyline. Trust me, it's very cool stuff… my piece of the puzzle involves Brainiac, Superman's trusty robot 'Ned,' Lois, Jimmy, Perry White and a surprise guest star…"

"Sacrifice" comes just three issues into Verheiden's run on ***Superman***—and, for that matter, just three issues into *Gail Simone & John Byrne's* run on ***Action*** and *Greg Rucka & Karl Kerschl's* run on ***Adventures of Superman*** (although Rucka had previously produced the book in conjunction with another artist). Verheiden's first two issues were standalone stories that focused on major elements of the Superman mythos, re-establishing his relationship with the DCU and with his supporting cast. Was it intentional that Verheiden started off with a more basic approach, or did it just work out that his first couple of stories help to re-ground the Man of Steel after the far-reaching "For Tomorrow" arc by *Brian Azzarello & Jim Lee*. "It's intentional, though not necessarily in direct reaction to the 'For Tomorrow' arc," Verheiden said.. "It's really just about focusing on what interests me about the character. There were certainly some continuity issues that needed to be addressed—specifically Superman's new Fortress in the Amazon, and the emergence of the OMACs into the DCU—but I really *like* Superman's cast of characters, so I'm trying to explore their lives in connection with Superman. (In that regard you'll be seeing much more. of Jimmy and Lois in upcoming issues…)"

Is there any member of Superman's supporting cast that Verheiden has been particularly eager to tackle? "I'm doing an all-out crazy Bizarro story which is frankly a dream come true. Out of the entire Superman cast, classic 'me am Bizarro' is my probably my all-time favorite, and the story is nice change of pace for the series."

Verheiden is quite happy that the ***Superman*** team come to their books with an admiration for the Man of Steel rather than an agenda for change. "Especially after working on ***Smallville***, I think there are ways to 're-imagine' our sense of Superman without necessarily turning the character upside-down," Verheiden said. "I want to bring back the feeling of awe the character should generate when he does his 'super' thing on Earth. Sometimes Kal-el feels too much like mankind's pal and not the astounding, otherworldly, incredibly powerful being he truly is.

"However, that doesn't necessarily mean making him aloof or apart from humanity. It's pretty clear that Superman desperately wants to be part of human-kind, otherwise he wouldn't have married Lois or continued to stick around in the face of endless adversaries. So my stories will explore his fascinating relationship with 'us,' a relationship that is going to be sorely tested by a variety of situations and villains."

Verheiden is no stranger to the Superman mythos—after all, he was an executive producer on ***Smallville*** for the first three years of the series—but writing the flagship ***Superman*** comic is far different than working on the television show, where continuity and history were much less of an issue. Thus far, Verheiden said that he's "having a great time writing the character, and still suffer the occasional 'pinch me' moment when I realize I'm actually writing the original big kahuna. Aside from that, everyone at DC has been great and supportive, which just makes it that much better. In terms of editorial unity, *Dan DiDio, Eddie Berganza, Greg Rucka, Gail Simone* and I spent a day 'Super-summitting' back in March, making copious plans that will take the ***Superman*** books through the rest of the year. What's fun is that while we're all writing about the same guy, we all come at it from significantly different POVs."

While Verheiden is having enjoying the opportunity to tell the sort of Superman stories he's always dreamed of, he's also very much aware of the Man of Steel's iconic role in the DC Universe. Obviously, Superman will feel the effects of ***OMAC Project*** events in "Sacrifice." Does Superman's linchpin status lead to further spillover from the various high-profile series as well? "The short answer is yes, events in the broader DCU will *definitely* impact the Superman book. As far as how—well, those are still deep dark secrets… but there are some *massive* changes in the wings."

What led Verheiden, Simone, & Rucka to follow up two months of standalone stories a month-long multi-title crossover event, and how does the collaborative process work? "To be honest, I'm not sure who came up with the original idea for the crossover—but once the concept was in place, my goal was to tell the best story possible within the framework of the arc. The writers certainly discussed their respective chapters with ***Superman*** editor *Eddie Berganza* and with each other, to make sure we were all in sync.

"In terms of collaboration, we all work independently, but we check in with each other and with Eddie to make sure we're not stomping on one another's toes."

"Sacrifice" kicks off on July 7th with the release of ***Superman #219*** by Verheiden and artist *Ed Benes;* Brainiac returns in this issue, and he uses his knowledge of Superman's secrets to attack the Man of Steel. The story continues one week later in ***Action #829*** by *Gail Simone, John Byrne, & Nelson,* in which Darkseid enters the fray... but an even deadlier villain may be lurking in the shadows. Then, in ***Adventures of Superman #642*** by *Greg Rucka & Karl Kerschl,* the Man of Steel has to decide just how far he is willing to go to deal with the evil of Darkseid and Granny Goodness. The series wraps up in ***Wonder Woman #219*** by *Greg Rucka, Rags Morales, & Michael Bair,* which finds Superman confronting his longtime Amazonian ally in a story that may well reshape their friendship forever. Each book is priced at $2.50.

by Cliff Biggers

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

News from the Convention Circuit
WizardWorld Philadelphia

The summer convention season kicked off in early June, and there was news aplenty from WizardWorld Philly. Here are are the highlights:

One Year After

Just how much will the upcoming ***Infinite Crisis*** shake up the DC Universe? Well, according to DC's *Dan DiDio* at the WizardWorld Philly "***Crisis*** Counseling" panel, it's so big that every DCU title will jump ahead one year as a result of the events of ***Infinite Crisis.***

The larger name for where and when things pick up as a result of ***Crisis*** is, specifically, "One Year Later…"

"The series will pick up with the new direction already in progress and the heroes established in their new status quo," *Dan Didio* told ***Comic Shop Newsarama***'s *Matt Brady*. "'One Year After…' sounds like you are dealing with the direct repercussions of ***Crisis***, which is not the case."

As for how things will play out, publishing-wise, all DCU books will make note of the ***Crisis*** in their February issues, corresponding with ***Infinite Crisis #5***. Then, in March, all DCU books will be set "One Year Later…" relative to what was seen in their February issues.

Furthermore, according to DiDio, that's just the tip of the iceberg. "There will be big scale changes," Didio said. "New characters, perhaps new series, new alliances, friendships, relationships, changing locations, and we might not even have some of the same people under the masks one year later."

To cut off the obvious question—no, while the *Brian Azzarello/Jim Lee* ***Superman*** storyline was set one year ahead of its fellow ***Superman*** titles during its run, the "One Year Later…" move isn't something planned to sync the rest of the DCU with Superman. "Brian and Jim's 'one year ahead' was for the ***Superman*** stories that were being published at that time," DiDio said. "Since their year-long arc moved at a much quicker pace – in comic book time - so in the year following that story's start all the Superman books synced up and all the DCU is running on a closer timeline now."

As for the cause of the jump ahead—well that's not coming until the seventh issue of ***Infinite Crisis***. "Readers will see the *changes* before the *cause* is seen," DiDio said. "The end of ***Crisis*** sets up a number of these changes; other will be explained in the series themselves."

According to DiDio, there's no comparison between what's happening in ***Infinite Crisis*** and what happened in earlier mega-events such as ***Crisis on Infinite Earths*** or ***Zero Hour.*** "In those two events, every series started from a common point and moved forward and outward," DiDio said. "With 'One Year Later...' each and every character has a starting point and moves of at a pace of its own. You will see a wide mix of new series, rebooted series, continuing series and unfortunately, cancelled series. All the changes will make sense for the character and for their own story." Will the stories of the missing year ever be told? "Of course!" DiDio said.

Marvel Newsbits

•Marvel still won't say exactly what *Neil Gaiman's* next Marvel project will be, but they did reveal that it will be set in the Marvel Universe, will have ties to ***House of M,*** and will most likely be a single-character series rather than a team book;

•*Richard Morgan & Sean Phillips* will team for the new ***Black Widow*** project, with ***Bill*** *Sienkiewicz* once again supplying inks.. The first issue is slated for a September release.

•***The Book of Doom***, a six-issue miniseries which tells the origin of Dr. Doom, by *Ed Brubaker, Pablo Raimondi, & Mark Farmer* kicks off in October.

•***Colossus: Bloodline***, written by *David Hine* with interiors by *Jorge Lucas*, is in the works for fall release.-

•***Drax the Destroyer*** will star in his own four issue limited series from writer *Keith Giffen* and artist *Mitch Breitweiser*. Editor *Andy Schmidt* said that they're not throwing out the character's past continuity, but they are looking to make Drax cool.

•***Exiles*** goes on a "Worlds Tour" starting with #69, and running through issue #82. The first issue will mark the debut of *Paul Pelletier* on the series, re-teaming him on a regular basis with his former ***Negation War*** partner *Tony Bedard*.

•Look for ***House of M*** to lead to major changes in the Marvel Universe. "Everything we do for the next eighteen months comes out of ***House of M,***" Editor *Tom Brevoort* said, with *Mike Marts* adding that, "The event is big enough to force us to cancel or end certain titles, and start new ones." Brevoort added that status quos of characters will change as a result of House of M, some of which will harken back to previous relationships seen in years past. Look for some creative team changes in the aftermath of ***House of M*** storylines as well.

•With ***House of M*** just beginning to shake up the Marvel Universe, editor-in-chief *Joe Quesada* indicated that this is just the first of several major events in the planning stages. Marvel has five major "tentpole events" slated for 2006.

•***Hyperion*** and ***Nighthawk*** will each star in ***Supreme Powers*** spinoff limited series later this year.

•Once the very late *Warren Ellis-Adi Granov* ***Iron Man*** story arc wraps up, Marvel will be bringing in a high-profile new creative team to take over the book. No word yet on who that team is, but Marvel promised an announcement later this summer.

•***Moon Knight*** is definitely on Marvel's schedule for 2006; *Joe Quesada* said that a writer has been selected, and big plans are already in the works.

•*Chris Claremont* will write ***New Excalibur,*** which launches in November. The series, which will star Nocturne, Juggernaut, Dazzler, Sage, Pete Wisdom, and Captain Britain, will go back to basics as the team takes the responsibility of cleaning up a major repercussion that comes as a result of ***House of M.***

•***New X-Men*** will see a creative team shift, with *Craig Kyle & Christopher Yost* coming on board as writers and *Mark Brooks* joining as penciler. Given that Yost and Kyle created X-23, the clawed teen female will join the cast with ***New X-Men #20,*** the new team's first issue.

•*Paul Jenkins'* new ***Sentry*** limited series is slated to debut before the end of the year.

•The *Dan Slott*-penned ***She-Hulk*** series begins in October.

•The Dan Slott's ***Thing*** miniseries kicks off in November. Slott says the story is "big fun and action," suggesting that it will be in the same vibe as his recent ***Spider-Man/Human Torch*** miniseries.

•The cover of ***Ultimate Fantastic Four #21*** seems to indicate that the "Crossover" story arc may indeed feature the first meeting of the Ultiverse and the Marvel Universe.

•Even though the Kuberts are now under contract with DC, *Andy Kubert* wil complete the initial five-issue ***Ultimate Iron Man*** series written by *Orson Scott Card*, while *Adam Kubert* is supplying the art for the so-long-awaited-we-almost-forgot-about-it ***Daredevil: Target #2*** written by *Kevin Smith.*

•Spider-Man gets a new girlfriend in ***Ultimate Spider-Man Annual,*** and Marvel says it's someone we've seen in the series before. (Advance speculation centers on the Black Cat...)

•*Mark Bagley* has designed Ultimate Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu, and Ultimate Iron Fist, and both of them will appear in the "Warriors" story arc in ***Ultimate Spider-Man,*** along with Ultimate Moon Knight.

•*Bryan Singer's* ***Ultimate X-Men*** arc, co-written by *Brian K. Vaughan*, should kick off in December or January launch.

•*Chris Bachalo* will debut as the regular penciler on ***Uncanny X-Men*** beginning with #464.

DC Newsbits

•Now that *Adam & Andy Kubert* have both signed multi-year contracts with DC, *Dan DiDio* said he would love to have one or both of them working on a Batman project—although, has he put it, by the time their contracts are up, they will probably have touched on *all* the major characters in the DC Universe.

•*Dan DiDio* reiterated that the Red Hood is definitely Jason Todd, and the resolution of his story will have major ramifications for the DC Universe.

•- There are plans afoot for ***Booster Gold.*** Didio said that the character is essential for what is occurring in ***The OMAC Project,*** adding that there's a great moment with Booster, Guy Gardner, and Wonder Woman in issue three of the miniseries, and that Booster really comes into his own in the series, given the recent loss of his best friend. (And speaking of ***OMAC Project,*** what happens between Superman and Wonder Woman in #s 3-4 is a major key to everything that has been happening and will happen in the DCU.)

•*Darwyn Cooke* contributes a four-issue story arc beginning with ***Flash #227.***

•*Dan DiDio* discounted rumors of the impending cancellation of ***Gotham Central,***

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calling it a key book in the DC Universe.

•***Green Lantern: Rebirth*** artist *Ethan Van Sciver* will supply the art for the second story arc in the ongoing ***Green Lantern*** series, beginning in ***Green Lantern #4***. From there on, he will alternate with *Carlos Pacheco* as one of two regular artists on ***Green Lantern***.

•Look for a ***Green Lantern: Rebirth*** hardcover collection in October.

•DC adds a second ***Green Lantern*** series in September with the debut of ***Green Lantern Corps: Recharge***, written by *Geoff Johns & Dave Gibbons* with art by *Patrick Gleason & Christian Alamy*.

•Golden Eagle assumes the mantle of Hawkman in ***Hawkman #44***. Series co-writer *Jimmy Palmiotti* said that he and *Justin Gray* will be delving into the origin of Golden Eagle, and the series will be tying into ***Rann-Thanagar War*** in the coming months.

•When ***Infinite Crisis*** kicks off this fall, each issue will ship with two variant covers—one by *Jim Lee* and one by *George Pérez*.

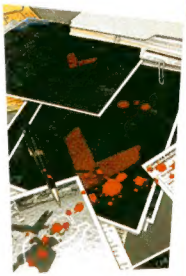
•Since Tim Drake has said he will never take on the role of Batman, who will inherit the mantle from Bruce Wayne? That question will be answered in the upcoming ***Infinite Crisis*** limited series.

•*Geoff Johns* is taking a three-issue break from ***JSA*** to wrap up his work on ***Infinite Crisis*** and ***JSA Classified***. Writer/artist *Keith Champagne* will handle the creative honors for those ***JSA #s 78-80***, presenting a story that ties into both ***Days of Vengeance*** and ***Infinite Crisis***.

•Comic book legend *Joe Kubert* will be writing and drawing a new ***Sgt. Rock*** series, ***The Prophecy***, that begins in January 2006.

•DC plans to enter the black-and-white phonebook-sized comic book anthology market this fall with the release of ***Showcase Presents***. Each volume will offer five hundred pages of Silver Age classics, beginning with ***Showcase Presents Superman*** in September, then continuing with volumes featuring ***Jonah Hex*** (scheduled to coincide with the release of the new ***Jonah Hex*** series in October), ***Green Lantern***, ***Metamorpho***, and ***Justice League of America***.

•September also sees the start of *Grant Morrison's* ***Seven Soldiers: Mr. Miracle***, with Shiloh Norman (described as a cross between David Blaine and Puff Daddy) under the Mr. Miracle mask.



•***Vigilante*** finally returns to DC, *with Bruce Jones & Ben Oliver* at the helm, and covers by *Michael Golden*. Issue one hits in September, and Jones described it as "very, very, *very* dark."

•*Bruce Jones* is hard at work at DC: in addition to ***Vigilante***, he's also writing the new ***Warlord*** series, which will feature art by *Bart Sears*, who recently went exclusive with DC. Jones called the character something very close to his heart, describing it as fantasy with a new spin, a roller-coaster ride. While there will be less actual sword and sorcery, the series will still be in that genre.

Vertigo Newsbits

•*Bruce Jones* has a major revamp of the ***Deadman*** concept forthcoming in early 2006 in a series illustrated by *John Watkiss*. This time around, Deadman is pilot Brandon Cayce, who, after a crash that left him DOA at the morgue, finds himself surprisingly "alive" – and a target of men in sunglasses trying to kill him.

•Yorick finally reaches Australia in ***Y—The Last Man #37***, and begins his search for his long-lost girlfriend.

WildStorm Newsbits

•Though ***Authority: Revolutions*** is ending shortly, the Authority returns in September with ***The Magnificent Kevin***, by *Garth Ennis & Carlos Ezquerra*.

•Wildcats return with ***Wildcats: Nemesis***, a nine issue miniseries by ***Robbie Morrison*** with art by *Talent Caldwell, Horacio Domingues & Matt Banning*. The storyline follows a rogue warrior, Charis, as she seeks to avenge a massacre, only to uncover a universe-threatening conspiracy.

All in the Family: Kubert Trio at DC:

While legendary creator *Joe Kubert* has been closely associated with DC for the bulk of his half-century career, his sons *Adam & Andy Kubert* have made theirs Marvel for most of their careers. That situation is about to change, though, as *Adam & Andy Kubert* have each signed three-year exclusive contracts with DC.

The Kuberts were, until recently, exclusive to Marvel Comics Together they've illustrated many of the publisher's most high-profile projects over that time, including ***X-Men***, ***Origin***, and ***1602*** [Andy], and ***Ultimate X-Men***, ***Ultimate Fantastic Four***, and ***Wolverine*** [Adam].

Of course, the brothers have worked at DC earlier in their careers: After working together on ***Sgt. Rock #394*** back in 1984, Andy illustrated ***Doc Savage*** with Adam in 1987, then went on to supply the art for ***Adam Strange*** in 1990. However, given their father's work volume for DC, the argument could be made that the brothers, despite their Marvel work, are DC legacy artists. "Joe is a big part of our history, and we wanted to make Adam and Andy a big part as well," DC's *Dan DiDio* said.

This is the third major exclusive announcement—and the third and fourth major artist announcements—that DC has made in recent weeks. ***CSN*** told you about *George Pérez's* five-year exclusive with DC a few weeks ago, and more recently *Bart Sears* left Marvel to a multi-year exclusive with the company.

What makes the dual Kubert signings perhaps even more surprising and significant is most industry observers did not regard the brothers' services as "in play". For years they were two of Marvel's most reliable commercial performers and "go-to" artists, and their exits leave both a substantial vacancy in Marvel's creative roster.

Though DC did not name what projects the Kuberts will take on with them at this time, it's likely to be very high profile titles starring DC's highest profile characters, perhaps in the mold of an ***All Star*** title or *Jim Lee*-like runs on iconic monthly titles.

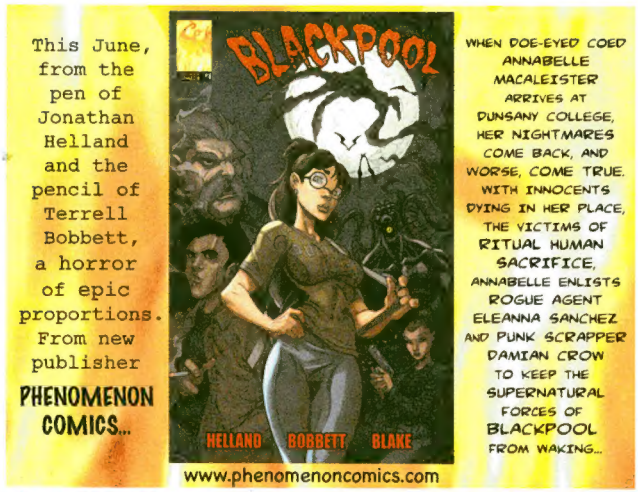
Fallen Angel Rises at IDW

On his weblog, *Peter David* has confirmed that his series ***Fallen Angel***, until recently published by DC, will move to a new publishing home at IDW later this year.

"We had wanted to wait on an announcement to have the final contracts signed (they're not) and having sample artwork from the new artist (we don't)," David wrote. "But *Bob Wayne* announced at the Wizard Philly Con that ***Fallen Angel*** is going to IDW, so the timing ship has just sailed from the harbor.

"So yeah, ***Fallen Angel*** will be relaunching in December (we hope) from IDW. The first storyline will reveal the Angel's true origin and, thus, will be an ideal jumping on point for anyone who hasn't read it until now."

Wayne said that DC had hoped they could make the book a successful part of the DC Universe, but ultimately, it just didn't work out. "We understand Peter's decision to take it to IDW," Wayne said.


This June, from the pen of Jonathan Helland and the pencil of Terrell Bobbett, a horror of epic proportions. From new publisher
PHENOMENON COMICS...
BLACKPOOL
WHEN DOE-EYED COED ANNABELLE MACALEISTER ARRIVES AT DUNSANY COLLEGE, HER NIGHTMARES COME BACK, AND WORSE, COME TRUE. WITH INNOCENTS DYING IN HER PLACE, THE VICTIMS OF RITUAL HUMAN SACRIFICE, ANNABELLE ENLISTS ROGUE AGENT ELEANNA SANCHEZ AND PUNK SCRAPPER DAMIAN CROW TO KEEP THE SUPERNATURAL FORCES OF BLACKPOOL FROM WAKING...
HELLAND BOBBETT BLAKE
www.phenomenoncomics.com

Top Two-Dozen f

ALL STAR BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER #1

Frank Miller (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

(MAY050190 $2.99; also available signed by Jim Lee (MAY052722 $29.99), signed by Frank Miller (MAY052723 $69.99) or signed by the creative team (MAY052724 $149.99))

What's the Scoop?

DC calls on two of the best-known talents in the field—***The Dark Knight Returns*** creator *Frank Miller* and ***Batman: Hush*** illustrator *Jim Lee*—to create a Batman book accessible to everyone, a Batman book that has all the classic elements of the Bat-mythos, unencumbered by the complexities of modern continuity. These are the adventures of the quintessential Batman, a crimefighting hero just entering his prime, and his young, enthusiastic sidekick, just as everyone knows them.

Why Should You Care?

Every now and then, a book comes along that pretty much defines a comic book decade—and ***All Star Batman & Robin, the Boy Wonder,*** with its iconic approach and its superstar creative team, is just such a book.

COMBAT ZONE: TRUE TALES OF GIS IN IRAQ VOL 1 TP

Karl Zinsmeister (W); Dan Jurgens (A)

(Marvel MAY051824 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel presents its first original graphic novel in many years with this compelling story of the 82nd Airborne's struggle to free Iraq from Saddam's control, as seen through the eyes of embedded journalist *Karl Zinsmeister* and illustrated by comics great *Dan Jurgens*. This is the ground-level story of the war that you never saw on cable news, as experienced by the soldiers who routed the Republican Guard.

Why Should You Care?

This graphic novel offers an insider's look at three months in the lives of *real* American heroes.

COURTNEY CRUMRIN TALES #1

Ted Naifeh (W/A)

(Oni MAY052896 $5.95)

What's the Scoop?

Ted Naifeh presents the first in a series of prestige-format oneshots focusing on various characters in the Courtney Crumrin world, beginning with Uncle Aloysius, whose younger years are spotlighted.

Why Should You Care?

Naifeh's darkly charming world of Courtney and her friends, with their "Harry Potter as interpreted by Charles Addams" vibe, has an almost irresistible appeal. Try it—you'll *like* it!

DAREDEVIL VS. PUNISHER #1

David Lapham (W/A)

(Marvel MAY051769 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

All the major players in the East Coast underworld seek control of Hell's Kitchen now that the Kingpin is gone... and they'll use every means at their disposal to accomplish their goal. Daredevil and the Punisher have other plans for Hell's Kitchen, though—plans that put them at odds not only with the criminals, but with each other!

Why Should You Care?

Stray Bullets mastermind *David Lapham* makes an all-too-rare foray into the superhero world, writing and illustrating this six-part limited series.

DAY OF VENGEANCE #4

Bill Willingham (W); Justiniano & Walden Wong (A)

(DC MAY050224 $2.50)

DC SPECIAL: THE RETURN OF DONNA TROY #2

Phil Jimenez (W); José Luis Garcia-Lopez & George Pérez (A)

(DC MAY050225 $2.99)

OMAC PROJECT #4

Greg Rucka (W); Jesus Saiz (A)

(DC MAY050243 $2.50)

RANN•THANAGAR WAR #3

Dave Gibbons (W); Ivan Reis & Marc Campos (A)

(DC MAY050245 $2.50)

VILLAINS UNITED #3

Gail Simone (W); Dale Eaglesham & Wade von Grawbadger (A)

(DC MAY050254 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Shazam and the Shadowpact enlist Detective Chimp as their secret weapon in the war against the Spectre. The Titans and the Outsiders confront the lost comrade-in-arms... but she's not the Donna Troy they remember. A civil war begins within the ranks of Checkmate, while Brother Eye breaks free. The war of the worlds threatens to escalate even further. And the villain war becomes more heated as the Six take on the Society... but do they have a traitor in their midst?

Why Should You Care?

The DC Universe continues to take on a darker, deadlier tone as this historic miniseries wind their way towards this fall's can't-miss ***Infinite Crisis.***

DEAD BOY DETECTIVE

Jill Thompson (W/

(Vertigo/DC MAY050292 $9.99)

What's the Scoop?

Charles Rowland and Edwin P remain pretty lively as they pu This time out, the duo pay a vis young woman find out what h but the case takes a rather surp as the two don female garb to girls academy.

Why Should You

Jill Thompson, whose first mang graphic novel was a hit both w *Gaiman* aficionados, does it aga quirky Sandmanga.

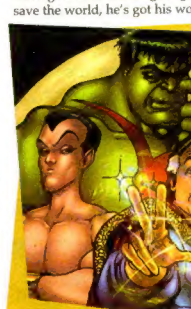
DEFENDERS

Keith Giffen & J.M Kevin Maguire (A)

(Marvel MAY051773 $2.99)

What's the Scoop

Wong possessed by Nightmare allies? the Hulk and Namor... e surfing? If Doctor Strange is g save the world, he's got his wo



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nemies? The Silver Surfer...
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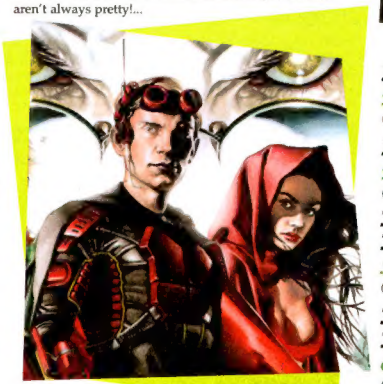
Why Should You Care?
The creative trio behind the bwah-hah-hah era of ***Justice League*** zaniness brings their twisted sense of adventure to the Marvelverse in this memorable limited series.

FRESHMEN #1
Seth Green & Hugh Sterbakov (W); Leonard Kirk (A)
(Image MAY051589 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
A group of college freshmen gain superpowers—powers that are based on whatever they were thinking at the exact moment of their transformation. Believe us, the results aren't always pretty!...



Why Should You Care?
Seth Green of ***Austin Powers*** and ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** fame is the co-creator of this slightly warped look at the life superheroic. Read it now so that you're ahead of the crowd when the film goes into production!...

G.I. JOE: AMERICA'S ELITE #1
Joe Casey (W); Stefano Caselli & Sunder Raj (A)
(Devil's Due MAY052681 $2.95)
Joe Casey, Stefano Caselli & Sunder Raj kick off the new, more real-world Joe series with a bang

What's the Scoop?
Chicago has suffered a disaster of unimaginable magnitude—a disaster that may have been caused by an enemy attack. Cobra is splintered... but that may make the global threat even worse! That's why the President has called the Joes back into action... complete with a surprising new advisor!

Why Should You Care?
Joe Casey gives ***G.I. Joe*** a sense of contemporary urgency with this high-tension revamp.

GIMOLES #1
Mike Bullock (W); Theo Bain (A)
(Alias MAY052414 75¢)

What's the Scoop?
The Gimoles are magical creatures with the mystical skills to create each season... but their carefully scheduled routine goes awry when Ichabod Cornelius Frost, the Czar of Winter, decides that he's tired of seeing his icy season come to an end.

Why Should You Care?
The creator of the hit ***Lions, Tigers, & Bears*** serves up another well-seasoned all-ages fantasy.

HOUSE OF M #3
Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)
(Marvel MAY051736 $2.99)

HOUSE OF M #4
Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)
(Marvel MAY051737 $2.99)

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #1
John Layman (W); Scot Eaton (A)
(Marvel MAY051739 $2.99)

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #1
Greg Pak (W); Pat Lee (A)
(Marvel MAY051738 $2.99)

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #2
Mark Waid & Tom Peyer (W); Salvador Larroca (A)
(Marvel MAY051746 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
The Scarlet Witch has turned the Marvel Universe inside out, creating a radically altered reality that leaves the Avengers and the X-Men struggling to tell friend from foe. And the fate of the world may rest in the hands of the newest of new mutants, a young girl named Layla Miller. Meanwhile, the FF, Iron Man, and Spider-Man each must come to terms with their own reality detours.

Why Should You Care?
Brian Bendis lays the groundwork for the warping of the Marvel Universe in the core series, while other creators join in on the fun with their own altered realities in the spinoff miniseries. (And if that isn't enough twisted fun for you, check out the various tie-ins that run through various Marvel Universe titles this summer!)

JLA #116
Geoff Johns & Allan Heinberg (W); Chris Batista & Mark Farmer (A)
(DC MAY050235 $2.25)

What's the Scoop?
Now that they can recall the way things really were, the Secret Society of Super-Villains is looking for vengeance against the JLA members who stripped away those memories. But how can the JLA deal with a super-villain attack when their own ranks are splintered by the ramifications of their prior actions?

Why Should You Care?
This powerful story arc by *Geoff Johns & Allan Heinberg* bridges the gap between ***Identity Crisis*** and ***Infinite Crisis***, making it a must-read component of the Crisis Countdown.

JLA CLASSIFIED #10
Warren Ellis (W); Butch Guice (A)
(DC MAY050236 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
What's the link between a string of suicides at LexCorp and a rash of emergencies that demand the JLA's attention? And how do they all tie in to an unexplained explosion on Themyscira? That's what the JLA intend to find out.

Why Should You Care?
Warren Ellis pays a welcome visit to the DC Universe for this six-part arc illustrated by *Butch Guice*.

JSA CLASSIFIED #1
Geoff Johns (W); Amanda Conner & Jimmy Palmiotti (A)
(DC MAY050239 $2.50; also available in a signed edition (MAY052727 $69.99))

What's the Scoop?
Who is Power Girl? Where did she come from? Learn the answers to those questions in this story arc that leads into this fall's crossover event that will affect the JSA for years to come.

Why Should You Care?
Geoff Johns, one of the major players in the Crisis Countdown, explores the origin of one of the JSA's most popular members.

THE KING GN
Rick Koslowski (W/A)
(Top Shelf MAY053049 $19.95)

What's the Scoop?
He's the best Elvis impersonator on the Vegas strip... so good, in fact, that some are wondering if he's the real McCoy. That's why a reporter has decided to learn who The King really is...

Why Should You Care?
The title character may be an imitator, but *Rich Koslowski's* remarkable tale is a true original!

LIFE AND TIMES OF SCROOGE MCDUCK TP
Don Rosa (W/A)
(Gemstone APR052912 $16.99)

What's the Scoop?
The truth about Scrooge McDuck's formative years are revealed in this epic twelve-chapter graphic novel.

Why Should You Care?
Don Rosa, the heir to *Carl Barks'* Duck legacy, has created a classic in this biographical adventure that perfectly dovetails with Barks' Scrooge canon.

ROBERT JORDAN'S NEW SPRING #1
Chuck Dixon (W); Mike Miller (A)
(Red Eagle MAY052918 $3.95)

What's the Scoop?
Robert Jordan's prequel to ***The Wheel of Time*** fantasy series comes to comics in this adaptation by *Chuck Dixon & Mike S. Miller.*

Why Should You Care?
The Dabel Brothers, who made their mark in comics with their adaptation of *George R.R. Martin's* ***The Hedge Knight***, turn their attention to the works of one of the best-selling authors of modern fantasy, and the result is a powerful and visually stunning adaptation.

SERENITY #1

Joss Whedon & Brett Matthews (W); Will Conrad (A)

(Dark Horse MAY050013 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Once again, the crew of *Serenity* finds themselves broke and in need of some revenue... but while they're busying themselves with a scavenger mission, an old enemy is about to make that no-money thing seem like the least of their problems.

Why Should You Care?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer's Joss Whedon returns with an original *Serenity* limited series that leads into the upcoming feature film that picks up where the series *Firefly* left off.

SUPERMAN #219

Mark Verheiden (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC MAY050213 $2.50)

ACTION COMICS #829

Gail Simone (W); John Byrne & Nelson (A)

(DC MAY050214 $2.50)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #642

Greg Rucka (W); Karl Kerschl (A)

(DC MAY050215 $2.50)

WONDER WOMAN #219

Greg Rucka (W); Rags Morales & Michael Bair (A)

(DC MAY050216 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Brainiac and Darkseid are menacing enough on their own... but when they both return, imagine what turmoil they can create! And these aren't the only challenges that Superman will have to confront in this storyline that runs through all three ***Superman*** titles before concluding in ***Wonder Woman***.

Why Should You Care?

The DC Universe becomes a more menacing place with each passing month—and this four-parter makes that abundantly clear! Will this story arc have important links to the upcoming ***Crisis****? Mais oui!...*

TEEN TITANS #26

Geoff Johns (W); Tony Daniel & Marlo Alquiza (A)

(DC MAY050253 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Trying to find a balance in his life after the dramatic events of the ***Titans/Outsiders*** crossover, Superboy takes a look at his possible futures with a surprising guide: Raven!

Why Should You Care?

Not only is this a sequel to the spring's groundbreaking superteam crossover, it also features guest art by the inimitable *Tony Daniel*.

TICK: DAYS OF DRAMA #1

Clay & Susan Griffith (W); Dave Garcia & Kevin Atkinson (A)

(NEC MAY052888 $4.95)

What's the Scoop?

The Tick and Arthur return to the City... but apparently they didn't get the word that the City isn't cool any more! All the other heroes have moved on to Blissburg, a superhero's dreamtown where good always triumphs—with minimal effort!

Why Should You Care?

If you still remember that they were once called "funny books," then you'll be glad to know that there's plenty of funny to be found between these covers!

ULTIMATE FANTASTIC FOUR #21

Mark Millar (W); Greg Land (A)

(Marvel MAY051750 $2.50; also available signed by Mark Millar (MAY052731 $29.99) or by Greg Land (MAY052730 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Reed Richards continues to explore strange parallel dimensions... but his latest discovery is a strangely familiar world with a quartet of superpowered heroes who seem *very* familiar...

Why Should You Care?

Could this be the long-rumored story arc that brings the Marvel Universe and the Ultiverse together? Mmmmm.... *could* be!...

W.I.T.C.H. VOL 1 GN

Elizabeth Lenhard (W)

(Hyperion MAY052797 $4.99)

W.I.T.C.H. VOL 2 GN

Elizabeth Lenhard (W)

(Hyperion MAY052798 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Five friends—Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin—are far from ordinary: each has the power to control a natural element (earth, water, fire, earth, and the mysterious Heart of Candracar). And in fine comic book tradition, they use those powers to combat evil and to explore mysterious portals to strange new worlds.

Why Should You Care?

One of the most successful young-readers franchises makes the jump to graphic novels with these books that compile the comic book pages included in each ***W.I.T.C.H.*** volume. With each book moving many times more copies than the top-selling comic books, these are wonderful additions to any all-ages library.

WEAPON X: DAYS OF FUTURE NOW #1

Frank Tieri (W); Bart Sears (A)

(Marvel MAY051803 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Weapon X returns—and so does Director Malcolm Colcord, who is ready to take his plans to the next level. But what does this mean for Weapon X?

Why Should You Care?

Frank Tieri wraps up his Weapon X saga in this limited series featuring Agent Zero, Fantomex, Sublime, Chamber, and (what a surprise)Wolverine.

Check 'Em Out:
Books You Should Be Reading

ARMY OF DARKNESS #1

(Dynamite MAY052663 $2.99)

Army of Darkness and Re-Animator come together in this Lovecraftean horror adventure! That's right—it's Ash Vs. West!

IMPERIAL DRAGONS #1

(Alias MAY052412 75¢)

In the realm of the Broken Kingdoms, an agent named the Eternal has stolen a sword that is the sacred symbol of the southern emperor's power and authority. But before he can return to the northern kingdom, he finds himself trapped in the town of Qi Akuto by the Imperial Dragons. This is classic fantasy from the publishers of ***The Hedge Knight***.

GROUNDED #1

(Image MAY051530 $2.95)

When all-too-normal Jonathan is sent to a high school for super-powered children, he's forced to abandon his fantasy of developing powers and deal with the reality that he's the only kid without them. It's an intriguing reversal on the normal teen superhero drama.

JLA•CYBERFORCE

(DC MAY050237 $5.99)

Joe Kelly, Doug Mahnke. & Norm Rapmund bring together together two of the most powerful teams in comics. This adventure paves the way for Cyberforce's return in an upcoming solo series—but you can see 'em in action here right now!

MICHAEL CHABON PRESENTS ADVENTURES OF THE ESCAPIST #7

(Dark Horse MAY050017 $8.95)

Pulitzer-winning author *Michael Chabon* takes over the entire issue with a sensational story introducing the mysterious Mr. Machine Gun, a character torn straight from the pages of Chabon's ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay***.

STARDUST KID #2

(Image MAY051576 $3.50)

J.M. DeMatteis & Mike Ploog, the creators of ***Abadazad***, continue their latest all-ages fantasy drama, a dark tale starring four children who represent the world's only hope.

Read All About It:
Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #50

(TwoMorrows MAY053172 $5.95)

Spotlighting Roy Thomas' forty years in the comic book industry.

COMIC CREATORS ON FANTASTIC 4 SC

(Titan APR053093 $16.95)

Tom DeFalco talks with FF creators from *Stan Lee* to *Mark Waid*.

JUSTICE LEAGUE COMPANION VOL 1

(TwoMorrows MAY053052 $24.95)

Michael Eury presents this comprehensive examination of the Silver Age JLA, offering in-depth information on the JLA's development, history, imitators, and early fandom through vintage and all-new interviews.

MICHAEL TURNER WIZARD MILLENNIUM ED DELUXE HC

(Wizard MAY052335 $29.99)

Spotlighting the career of *Michael Turner*, this volume presents the best of his published work along with a heaping helping of previously unseen work.

MOCCA: WILL EISNER—A RETROSPECTIVE

(MOCCA MAY052875 $24.95)

Produced as a catalog for the Museum of Cartoon and Comic Art's Will Eisner exhibit, this volume also serves as a retrospective art book surveying Eisner's entire career. It includes work from many of his graphic novels, plus rare unpublished art. Forward by DC Comics President & Publisher *Paul Levitz*.

SWAMPMEN: MUCK-MONSTERS OF THE COMICS

(TwoMorrows MAY053053 $24.95)

Swamp Thing, Man-Thing, the Heap, and other swampy superstars are spotlighted in this fascinating book by *Jon B. Cooke & George Khoury*.

Collected Cool:
July's Best Reprint Volumes

BONE VOL 2: GREAT COW RACE COLOR ED

(Graphix MAY052790 $18.95 HC, $9.99 SC)

Second volume of *Jeff Smith's* ***Bone*** saga, presented in full color for the first time.

CONCRETE VOL 1: DEPTHS TP

(Dark Horse APR050031 $12.95)

First in a series of collections reprinting the classic early ***Concrete*** stories along with never-before-collected short stories by *Paul Chadwick*.

FREEBOOTERS HC

(Fantagraphics MAY052744 $29.95; also available in a signed edition (MAY052745 $49.99))

Collects the entirety of *Barry Windsor-Smith's* 'The Freebooters' stories from the acclaimed ***BWS: Storyteller*** comic book series from the early 1990s, including a full-length chapter from the unpublished tenth issue, plus more than fifty pages of new story.

HELLSHOCK DEFINITIVE ED VOL 1

(Image MAY051534 $49.99; also available in a remarked edition (MAY051535 $149.99))

Reprinting the occult suspense series by Jae Lee, complete with the never-before-seen final issue *and* a previously-unpublished prequel tale, which means that about 40% of this "reprint" volume is actually seeing print for the first time here!

MAGE VOL 2: THE HERO DEFINED HC

(Image MAY051565 $49.95)

This massive hardcover, the second in a series of limited editions, collects ***Mage: Her Defined #s 1-15*** plus covers, development artwork, 3D pages, and more, all by *Matt Wagner*.

SGT. ROCK ARCHIVES VOL 3 HC

(DC MAY050249 $49.99)

DC continues to bring some of the field's finest war stories back into print; this edition collects classic *Robert Kanigher-Joe Kubert* Silver Age tales from ***Our Army at War #111-125***.

WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HEROES OVERSIZED SLIPCASE

(DC MAR050429 $49.99)

Massive slipcased hardcover collecting the memorable collaborations of *Paul Dini & Alex Ross*—***Superman: Peace on Earth, Batman: War on Crime, Shazam!: Power of Hope, Wonder Woman: Spirit of Truth, JLA: Secret Origins,*** and ***JLA: Liberty & Justice***—along with sketches, behind the scene material, and much more.

Hot Commodities:

July's Hottest Merchandising/Collectibles

FLASH VS. GORILLA GRODD STATUE

(DC Direct JAN050384 $195.00)

Based on designs by fan-favorite *Michael Turner*, this statue is sculpted by *Tim Bruckner & Tony Cipriano.*

KINGDOM COME: SUPERMAN/HAWKMAN/ RED ROBIN MINI STATUE

(DC Direct JAN050385 $89.99)

Designed by *Alex Ross*; sculpted by *Tony Cipriano.*

MARVEL MILESTONES SILVER SURFER STATUE

(Diamond Select FEB052410 $150.00)

This *Mike Cussanelli* sculpt of the Surfer stands 12" high and is limited to 2500 copies.

SECRET FILES: BATMAN ROGUES GALLERY KILLER CROC ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN050391 $19.99)

SECRET FILES: BATMAN ROGUES GALLERY MAN BAT ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN050392 $19.99)

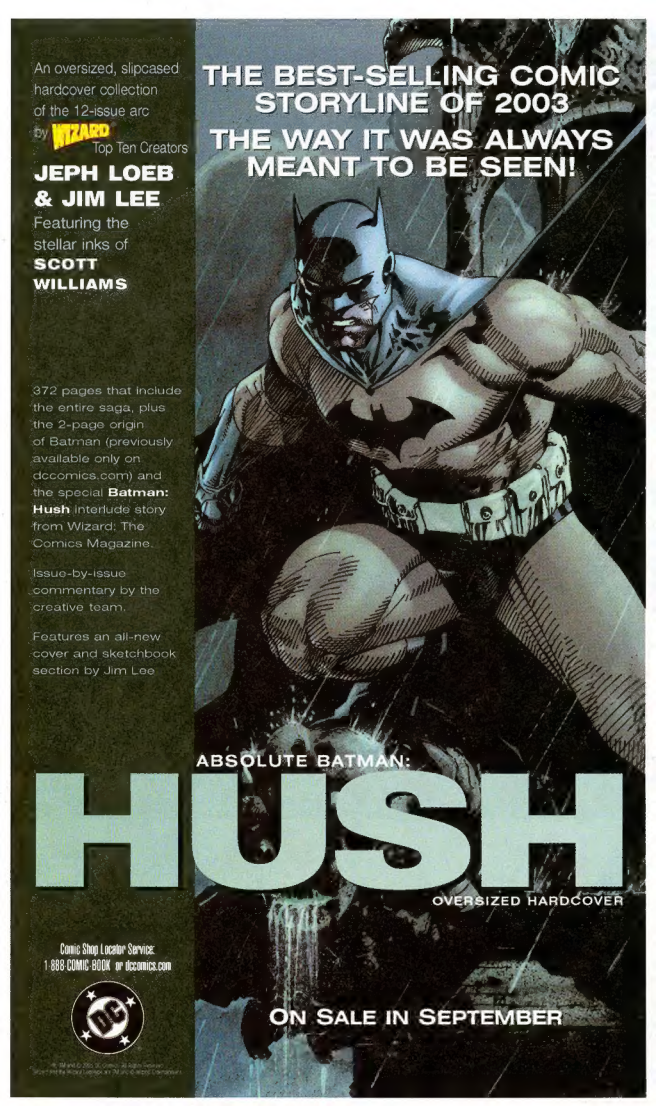
SECRET FILES: BATMAN ROGUES GALLERY MR FREEZE ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN050393 $19.99)

SECRET FILES: BATMAN ROGUES GALLERY PENGUIN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JAN050394 $19.99)

Four of the Dark Knights most deadly adversaries are spotlighted in this new series of articulated action figures produced in limited quantities by DC Direct.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